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GO SERV Website:
www.goserv.ca.gov

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News From the Team

**From Adam Sutkus,
Citizen Corps Program Director**

April brings us more sunshine, longer days, and many events to plan for. Most importantly, CA OES' Disaster Resistant California and the FEMA Regional Citizen Corps Conference are occurring in the first half of May; April will have several Regional CA OES meetings as well as grant application workshops for the 2004 grant. It will be a busy two months.

In this edition we are excited to announce a first ever law enforcement volunteerism survey, timely CERT news, and important Medical Reserve Corps information.

In a spirit of "keeping it short" for this month, keep up the good work and please let us know how we can assist you in any way possible!

Disaster Resistant Conference (DRC) May 3-5, 2004 in the Sheraton Grand Hotel in sunny Sacramento.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and The Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation (CDM) invite you to join attend the premier west coast emergency management conference.

The fourth annual Disaster Resistant California (DRC) Conference will be held May 3-5, 2004, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, California. This conference will offer an exciting and highly dynamic exploration of disaster mitigation, planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and homeland security issues through plenary panels, workshops and professional development courses.

GO SERV will be presenting at the conference and we will also be presenting a booth dedicated to the Citizen Corps efforts of California's local communities. We are asking for any CERT, VIPS, MRC, Council, or Neighborhood Watch programs that have been active with the Citizen Corps program to please send us collateral materials that we can showcase to the DRC participants. The materials we are primarily looking to display are badges, helmets, brochures, hats, t-shirts, pictures, vests, etc...This is the perfect opportunity for you to display some of the things that you have been doing during the past year. Also please indicate if you want the materials returned or if we can keep them for display at other conferences.

CERT Update

The Statewide 2004 CERT TTT Program continues to run on schedule, having produced 79 new instructors since the beginning of the year.

The County of Contra Costa co-sponsored our March CERT Train-the-Trainer at the Contra Costa County Regional Fire Training Center. Steve Rathbone, the Contra Costa County CERT Coordinator, was instrumental in making this course possible. Counties that sent representatives to the 3 day training included: Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo. Every participant is to be thanked for their contributions which made for a great learning experience.

Cedric Reese, City of Fresno Citizen Corps Council Volunteer CERT Representative, should be commended for his outstanding work planning, conducting, and leading this course. Cedric's willingness to share his insights and talent with 30 new CERT instructors is indicative of his devotion to the CERT Program. Cedric exemplifies volunteerism in every sense of the word.

GO SERV will be collaborating with others to hold three (3) more CERT TTT courses this year.

- 28-30 April in El Cajon (San Diego County)
- 16-18 June in Fresno (Fresno County)
- 21-23 July in Thousand Oaks (Ventura County)

The Statewide CERT Workgroup continued their work on the T4 - CERT Program Manager Academy during a conference call meeting on March 31st. The basic outline for the classes was discussed at length. The instruction will focus on each phase of a program throughout the following subject discussions.

Program Management
Retention of Trained members
CERT Programs and Budgeting
Effective Graduations
Advertising and Marketing CERT
Instructor Techniques
Refresher Training and Exercises

The first T4: CERT Program Manager Academy course will be conducted in August 2004 in Riverside. Then the schedule is September in San Jose, October in Fresno, November in Redding and then December in Los Angeles.

Please contact Jim Brown, CERT Coordinator, for further information. Jim.Brown@GOSERV.CA.GOV.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM SUPPORT FOR SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM: LET'S SERVE

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) is requesting your assistance in helping to represent police volunteers on a local, state, and national level and work towards sharing your success in working with volunteers with other agencies throughout California.

Across the country, there is a growing need to integrate volunteer resources in an effort to increase the preparedness level of California

communities. GO SERV is tracking the number of programs in California communities to:

- 1) Share the information with the Federal government to highlight the dedicated and large numbers of diverse programs; and
- 2) Share the information with local agencies so that the volunteer network can be expanded and as a volunteer community, we can learn best practices from each other.

Please log on to www.goserv.ca.gov and click on the LET'S SERV - LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM SUPPORT FOR SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM link and use the survey to highlight how your program has benefited your community.

Regional Citizen Corps Conference: Nevada, May 17-21, 2004

FEMA is sponsoring a first-ever regional conference on Citizen Corps Programs implementation and best practices in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 17-21. This conference is a unique and exciting opportunity for California to share directly and benefit from our neighbors in the Western States. Important note: ALL CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. The costs to attend this conference are allowable under the 2003/04 grants and should be budgeted for; we estimate approximately \$1,000 per attendee. GO SERV has been communicating regularly with many of our national colleagues, especially Washington State, and we are greatly looking forward to intensive training, fact-finding, and development interchanges with everyone attending the conference. All states and their local partners have had special success--and challenges--over this first year and half start-up cycle. This is our collective opportunity to garner information from others and allow us to accelerate California's program exponentially. We do not yet have the agenda or sign-up information from FEMA, but are expecting it within 1-2 weeks. Please access our website or

contact GO SERV for up-to-date information on this key opportunity.

National Citizen Corps Website

As the National Citizen Corps website continues to improve and offer more usability to the Citizen Corps world, GO SERV has begun the task of making sure all of California's Citizen Corps Councils are registered on the national site. By registering on the site not only does the rest of the nation get to see what we are up to but it also allows the state and counties a way to maintain informational integrity. GO SERV is now able to approve county level councils that have registered with the site, so make sure you register your active council. Approved County Councils will soon be able to directly approve city and neighborhood councils, consistent with SEMS. Be on the lookout for an informational email that we will send to the OA's giving them information and hopefully answers to their questions regarding the National website.

Medical Reserve Corps News

The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) was recently notified that Health & Human Services (HHS) would no longer be awarding new demonstration grants for MRC development in FY 2004 (Oct 1, 2003 - Sept 30, 2004). Those MRC's that were funded in 02 and 03 as "demonstration projects" will be entitled to apply for continuation of their multi-year funding, however new projects will not be funded through that office. According to Commander Robert Tosatto, National MRC Coordinator, money at the national level is now being used for technical assistance, website development, and annual leadership conferences. The national MRC site (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) has been greatly improved in the past few months with the addition of a very helpful technical series.

This lack of new MRC grant money from HHS OSG was unexpected and

unfortunate news for those groups diligently working towards qualifying this year. Therefore, other funding sources like Citizen Corps, Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program (UASI), etc. should be pursued. Additionally, EMSA and GOSERV will be looking for other funding opportunities and will notify groups via the "All CA MRC" list/conferences and through this newsletter, when new funding information becomes available.

Other, more positive MRC news: In addition to the MRC of LA County website mentioned last month (www.cphd.ucla.edu/mrc), don't miss the Sonoma County MRC website (www.sonoma-county.org/mrc). It is a very helpful site. Ann Baechler and Gabrielle Trubach in the Sonoma County MRC have been very helpful resources and willing to share with other groups that may be in earlier stages of development. One idea that consistently comes out of our MRC conference calls is that each group should not have to "reinvent the wheel", but should be able to learn from other groups that have "been there, done that". All our MRC groups have been very willing to share advice and lessons they have learned. Some examples: Stacy Deeble-Reynolds sent a list of sites she found very useful in the Beach Cities Health District community educational effort, and Ray Goodman from the MRC of LA County can always be counted on for ideas in addressing critical issues. Now, with Paula Martel from the MRC of Las Vegas joining our discussion group (Nevada only has one MRC and so Paula has been invited to join our conferences), we have another member from a very advanced MRC to share her expertise.

If interested in joining the "All CA MRC" Group and participating in our monthly conference calls, please notify Sherrill Reed at e-mail: sreed@emsa.ca.gov or phone: 916-322-4336, ext 406.

Citizen Corps Progress!!!

We now have 119 registered CERT programs in California, up from 49 at the start of the Citizen Corps program. We also have 48 registered Citizen Corps Councils throughout the state. Medical Reserve Corps has 12 granted programs and 8 others currently active throughout California. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.** Don't forget to register your program, if you haven't already done so. Also, do not forget to register your Neighborhood Watch or VIPS programs on their respective web sites.

NOTE TO GRANTEES

Unfortunately many grantees of '02 and '03 Citizen Corps & CERT grant are out of compliance by not submitting current quarterly reports and other completed documentation. **INVOICES WILL BE DENIED UNTIL DOCUMENTATION IS CURRENT.**

FAQS

Grantee Information

Q. Where can I find the Invoice Instructions, Form, and Expense Reports and the Budget Revision Form for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants??

- A. 1. Go to www.goserv.ca.gov.
2. On left hand side click on **Grantee Central**.
3. Enter password: and then click login.
4. On the left hand side you will now see a menu of items under **Grantee Central....Click on Citizen Corps.**
5. You will now see the message **"Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."**
6. Click on the tab labeled **2002 Forms**. The **"Invoicing Instructions and Forms,"** the **"Budget Revision Instructions and Form,"** and

the **"2002 Grant Closeout Form"** can be found here.

Q. What is the contract term for my agency/organization's 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A. The standard contract term for 2002 grants was 12/5/02 to 12/4/03. If your organization received an extension, the extended grant term ended on 3/4/04. An amendment was required to extend contracts beyond the original end date.

Q. When can my agency/organization incur expenses for the 2003 CERT Grants?

- A. Your agency/organization can only incur expenses during the contract term. The 2003 CERT contract term is: December 5, 2003 – December 4, 2004.

Q. When is the FINAL invoice due for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A. The final invoice is due 60 days after the expiration of your contract. For contracts without an extension on the original term, your final invoice was due on 2/4/04. Contracts with an extension to 3/4/04 must submit final invoices by 5/4/04.

Q. Where can I find the 2003 CERT Grant Invoice Instructions, Invoice Form, Expense Report Form and the Budget Revision Form?

- A. 1. Go to www.goserv.ca.gov.
2. On left hand side click on Grantee Central.
3. Enter password: and then click login.
4. On the left hand side you will now see a menu of items under Grantee Central....Click on Citizen Corps.
5. You will now see the message **"Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."**

6. Click on the tab labeled 2003 Forms. The "Invoicing Instructions and Forms", and the "Budget Revision Instructions and Form can be found here.

Citizens Corps Contact:

Main Number....

916.323.7646

WEB address:

www.goserv.ca.gov